



# HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT NEW ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

### Background

Haslemere Town Council passed a motion in support of a 20mph traffic speed limit in 2022.

### The rationale for a 20mph speed limit;

1. **Safer:** The UK's Department for Transport estimates that a 1mph lower speed in built-up areas reduces road casualties by 6%. Successful 20mph schemes result in 30% fewer casualties.
2. **Cleaner (and quieter):** 20mph reduces tail-pipe emissions by 25% compared with 30mph and is 50% quieter.
3. **Healthier:** 20mph helps to remove the blight of vehicle speed and builds inclusive communities where human activity, including walking, cycling and social interaction, takes first place.
4. **Popular:** National and local surveys consistently find 70% support in residential streets; such support rises after 20mph limits are introduced.
5. **Accepted** as normal by UK local authorities where 28m people live, including all of Wales - where 20mph will soon be the default speed on restricted roads<sup>[1]</sup> - and soon throughout Scotland<sup>[2]</sup>. 20mph is global best practice where people mix with motor traffic.
6. **Compliance:** 20mph is as enforceable as any speed limit. Even with no additional police enforcement, speeds reduce by up to 6mph on faster roads.
7. **Affordable (and cost effective):** Multiple economic, societal and environmental benefits at low cost. Entry signs plus repeaters remind drivers with no need for physical calming or additional enforcement.
8. **Little journey time impact:** Congestion, junctions and crossings are the determining factors in built up areas and 20mph rarely affects journey times or bus timetables.

***Signed schemes with public engagement are successful and cost-effective!***

<sup>[1]</sup> Default speed limits are set by national governments. Local Highway Authorities can choose 20mph as the norm for residential streets and town and village centres and make 30mph the exception where demonstrably safe."

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the clerk writes to Surrey County Council supporting its draft policy to fund 20mph restrictions zones and to request assistance for Haslemere to implement 20mph zones for its shopping and residential areas as a matter of urgency.